

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF (Small Entity)

Docket No.
IAC001

Re Application of: **Todd Anderson**

Serial No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Group Art Unit
09/867495	5/31/01	Brittain	3626

Invention: **Bungi-Claw**

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

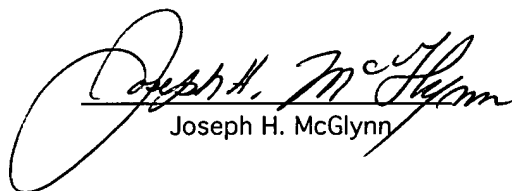
Transmitted herewith in triplicate is the Appeal Brief in this application.

The Notice of Appeal was filed **12/5/02**

Applicant is a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27.

A verified statement of Small Entity Status has already been filed in this application.

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is: **\$160.00** and a credit card charge in that amount is enclosed.


Joseph H. McGlynn

1/30/03
Dated

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FEB 03 2003

GROUP 3600

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2.4.03

Serial No. 09/867495



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant(s): **Todd Anderson**

Appeal No.: **Unknown**

Group: 3677

Examiner: Brittain

Serial No.: 09/867495

Filed: May 31, 2001

Title: **Bungi-Claw**

Docket No.: IAC011

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GROUP 3677

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Serial No. 09/867495



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APPELLANT'S BRIEF



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APPELLANT'S BRIEF

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FEB 03 2003

GROUP 3600

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is an appeal from the final rejection dated , finally rejecting claims 4 and 5. Claims 1 - 3 have been canceled.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The party identified in the caption of the brief is the real party in interest.

RELATED APPEALS OR INTERFERENCES

There are no appeals or interferences known to appellant, or the appellant's legal representative (there is no assignee) which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this pending appeal.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 4 and 5 remain in the application and are rejected. No claims are allowed.

STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been presented after Final.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The claimed invention is directed to a tie down which has a bungi cord 2 that has a hook 4 at one end for securing the bungi cord 2 to a first object and a clasp 5 at the other end. The clasp 5 has a pair of pivoted jaws 6, 7 with teeth 9 on at least one of the jaws for securing the other end of the bungi cord to a support.

ISSUES ON APPEAL

The issues in this appeal are:

- 1) Does Vasilopoulos have a second end with means for securing said second end to a support?
- 2) Would it be obvious to use the clip 92 of Vasilopoulos to secure the cord 30 to a support, since securing the cord to a support would serve no function in the Vasilopoulos device?

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Claims 4 and 5 are directed to a tie down which has a bungi cord 2 that has a hook 4 at one end for securing the bungi cord 2 to a first object and a clasp 5 at the other end. The clasp 5 has a pair of pivoted jaws 6, 7 with teeth 9 on at least one of the jaws for securing the other end of the bungi cord to a support. The claims stand of fall together.

ARGUMENTS

With respect to the rejection of claim 5, under 35 USC 103 over Vasilopoulos and Thurston, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5, lines 4 and 5, requires, "said second end having means for securing said second end to a support". This structure is missing from Vasilopoulos. The clip 92 of Vasilopoulos is not intended to be secured to a support. As disclosed in col. 4, lines 50 - 64, the jaws 97, 98 of clip 92 secure articles such as the bill of a hat or a glove. The bill of a hat or a glove can not be considered to be a "support" as claimed in claim 5.

Before the USPTO, when evaluating claim language during examination of the application, the examiner is required to give the terminology of the claims its broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification, and to remember that the claim language cannot be read in a vacuum, but instead must be read in light of the specification as it would be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art. See *In re Sneed*, 710 F. 2d 1544, 1548, 218 USPQ 685, 388 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831,833, 15 USPQ2d 1566, 1567

(Fed. Cir. 1990) and *In re Morris*, 127 F. 3d 1048, 1054, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

In addition, it would not be obvious to use the clip 92 of Vasilopoulos to secure to a support, since such an arrangement would server no purpose in the device of Vasilopoulos. Why would a person of skill in the art secure the golf bag 100 of Vasilopoulos to a support? Rejections based on 35 USC 103 must rest on a factual basis. *In re Warner*, 379, F.2d 1011, 1017, 154 USPQ 173, 177-78 (CCPA 1967). In making such a rejection, the examiner has the duty of supplying the requisite factual basis and may not, because of doubts that the invention is patentable, resort to speculation, unfounded assumptions or hindsight reconstruction to supply deficiencies in the factual basis.

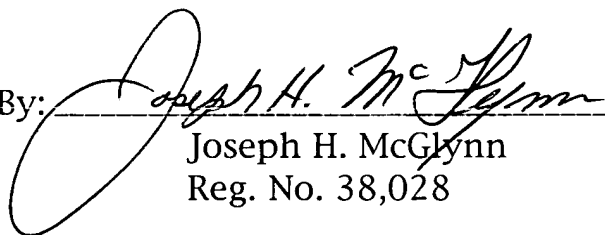
Vasilopoulos does not disclose “means for securing said second end to a support”, as claimed. Also, there is no reason to use the clip 92 of Vasilopoulos to secure the golf bag 100 to a support, since it will serve no purpose. Therefore, the rejection is improper and should be reversed.

CONCLUSION

Appellant respectfully submits that the references relied upon by the examiner fails to suggest or teach the configuration of the claimed invention, and that the rejections relying upon the art of record are improperly founded both in fact and in law. Therefore, the examiner's rejections should be reversed and a decision rendered favorable to the appellant.

Accordingly, the Honorable Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences is respectfully requested to reverse the examiner's rejections of claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 103 and to render a decision favorable to appellant.

Respectfully submitted,
Patent & Trademark Services, Inc.™

By: 
Joseph H. McGlynn
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APPENDIX

Claim 5. A bungie cord comprising:

an elastic cord having a first end and a second end,
said first end having a hook secured thereto, and
said second end having means for securing said second end to a support,
said means for securing said second end to a support comprising a first jaw and a second jaw,
said first and second jaws being secured together by a pivot, and
said first and second jaws being movable from a first position to a second position about said pivot, and
wherein when said first and second jaws are in said first position, they are closely adjacent one another, and
when said first and second jaws are in said second position, they are remote from one another, and
means for holding said first and second jaws in said first position, and
wherein said means for holding said first and second jaws in said first position is a spring, and
wherein said spring is wound around said pivot and has a pair of arms,
one of said pair of arms engaging an outside surface of said first jaw, and
another of said pair of arms engaging an outside surface of said second jaw.

Claim 4. The bungi cord as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first and second jaws have a plurality of teeth positioned on an inside surface of said first and second jaws.

J. A. THURSTON.
BEDCLOTHES HOLDER.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 12, 1915.

1,195,874.

Patented Aug. 22, 1916.

Fig. 1.

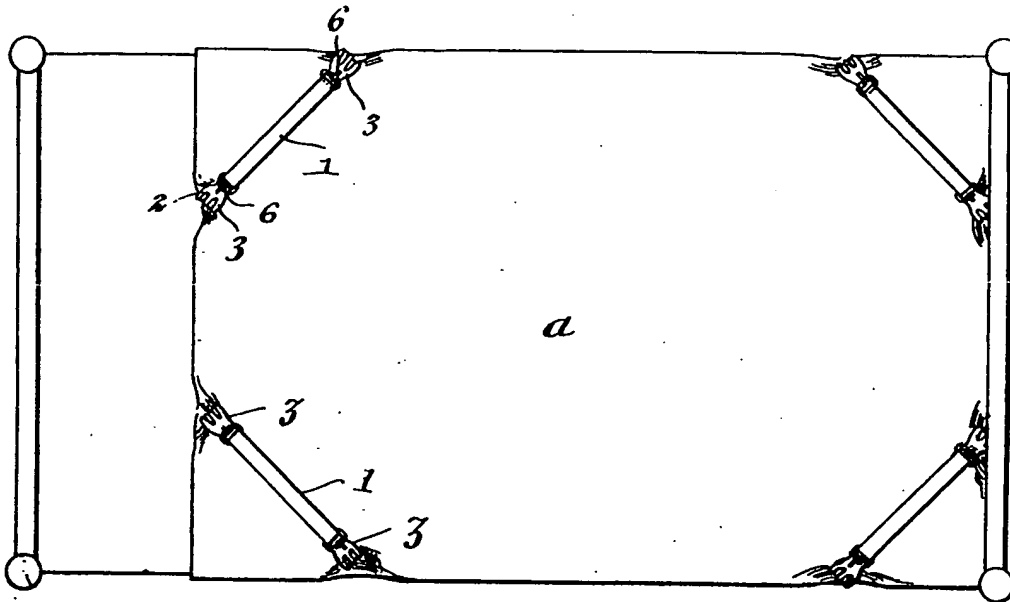


Fig. 2.

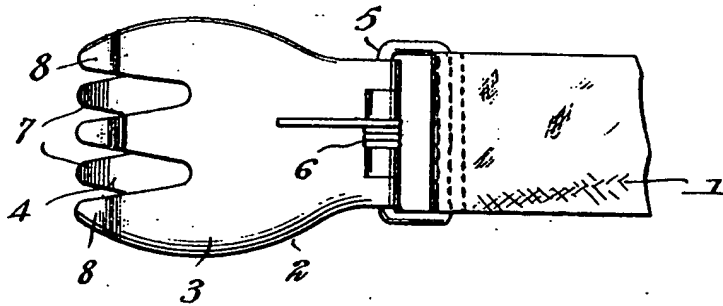
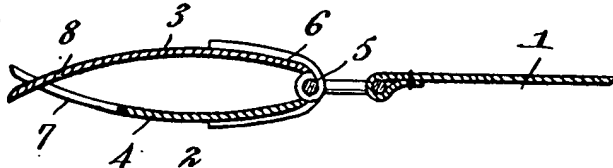


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JENNIE A. THURSTON, OF WINTHROP, MASSACHUSETTS.

BEDCLOTHES-HOLDER.

1,195,874.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 22, 1916.

Application filed March 12, 1915. Serial No. 14,004.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that JENNIE A. THURSTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Winthrop, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Bedclothes-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in devices adapted especially for use on children's beds to hold the bed clothes in place and prevent children from becoming uncovered during the night, the object of the invention being to provide an improved holder of this class, which is elastic so that it will yield to the movements of a child and which is provided at the ends with suitable clamps or fastening devices, one for engaging a bed cover and the other for engaging a seam in the mattress.

The invention consists in the construction and arrangement of devices hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1 is a plan of a bed provided with holders arranged and constructed in accordance with my invention for securing the bed cover in place. Fig. 2 is a detail elevation, on a larger scale of one of the holders. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view of the same.

In accordance with my invention I provide a bed clothes holder which comprises an elastic strap 1 of suitable dimensions, which in practice is usually about a foot long and one and one-half inches wide. These proportions may be varied. At the ends of the holder are suitable clasps 2 each of which comprises a pair of members or jaws 3, and 4 pivotally connected together on one side of a link 5, which link connects the strap and the holder together. A spring is provided with a coiled portion 6 arranged on said side of the link and also with arms which are arranged on the outer sides of the jaws, the spring serving to normally hold the jaws in position and its arms being arranged on the outer sides of the jaws to leave their inner sides unobstructed and thus facilitate the application of the holder to the bed cover or the upper seam of the mattress. The upper jaw is preferably provided with three fingers. The lower is preferably provided with two fingers 8 which

when the jaws are closed are arranged opposite the spaces between the fingers 7. By the construction of the jaws with longitudinally curved and concave faces arranged in opposed relation and with tapered fingers arranged in staggered relation, the fingers of the jaws cross, when the jaws are closed so that their outer ends extend in opposite directions and hence the fabric caught between the fingers of the jaws is bent longitudinally in opposite directions between the fingers and is also bent transversely in opposite directions between the fingers so that the clamp or holder gets a double gripping action on the fabric as will be understood.

Ordinarily four of my improved holders will be used on a bed but the number may be varied as desired. The holders are shown in Fig. 1 as arranged diagonally across the corners of the bed cover *a* and with the clasp at one end of each holder engaged with one edge of the bed cover and the clasp at the other end of the holder engaged with the upper seam of the mattress *b*. The holders serve to keep the cover in place so that a child in the bed will not become uncovered at night. Owing to the straps of the holders being elastic they are yieldable and hence do not interfere with ordinary movements of the child's limbs or body. In practice the clasps will be preferably made of aluminum or other non-corrodible material.

Having thus described my invention I claim:—

The herein described clasp comprising a pair of longitudinally curved jaws having their concave faces opposed, said jaws being pivotally connected together at one end and having at the opposite end tapered fingers arranged in staggered relation so that when the jaws are closed the fingers of the jaws cross and those of one jaw will be arranged in the spaces between the fingers of the other jaw, and a coiled spring on the pivot of the jaws and having arms arranged on the outer sides of the jaws.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JENNIE A. THURSTON.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR S. NICKERSON,
HORACE WAITE.



US005722125A

United States Patent [19]

Vasilopoulos

[11] Patent Number: 5,722,125
[45] Date of Patent: Mar. 3, 1998

[54] **SECURING DEVICE FOR GOLF CLUB HEAD COVERS**

[76] Inventor: Peter Vasilopoulos, 11831 SE. Tiffany Way, Tequesta, Fla. 33469

[21] Appl. No.: 768,785

[22] Filed: Dec. 17, 1996

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A44B 21/00; A63B 55/00

[52] U.S. Cl. 24/301; 24/3.13; 24/300; 150/160

[58] Field of Search 24/300, 301, 908, 24/905, 3.13; 224/643, 644; 150/159, 160; 206/315.4

[56] **References Cited**

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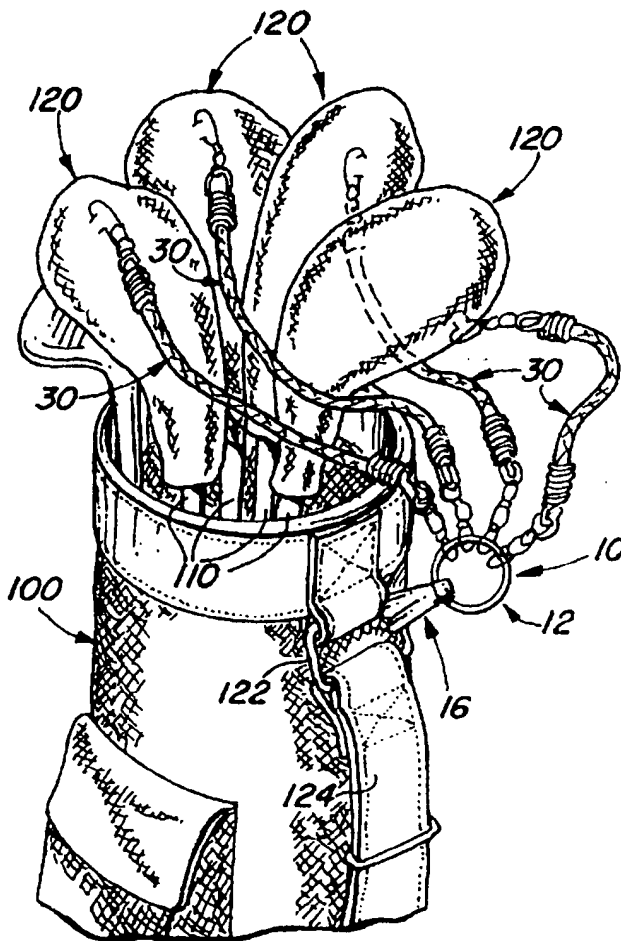
Primary Examiner—Victor N. Sakran

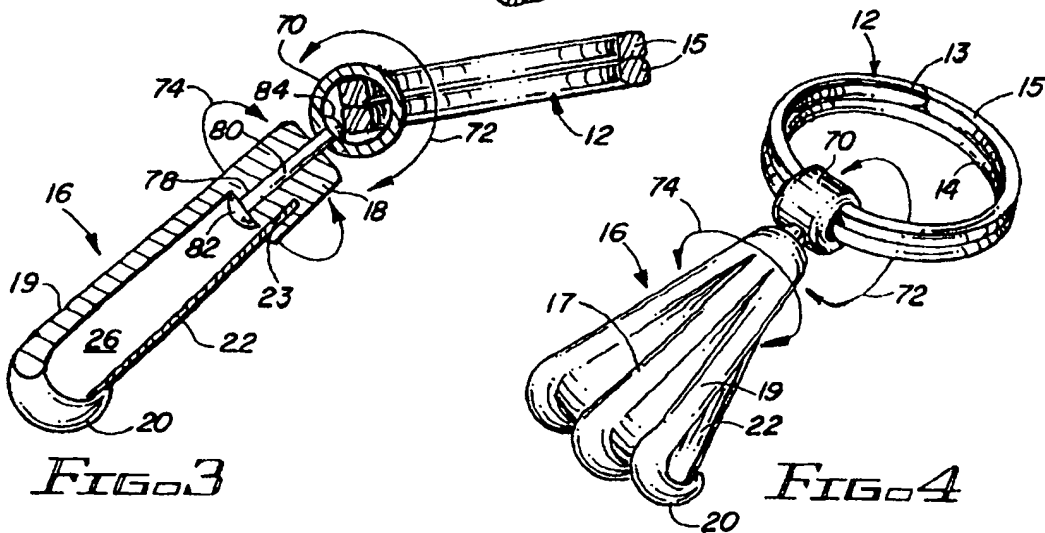
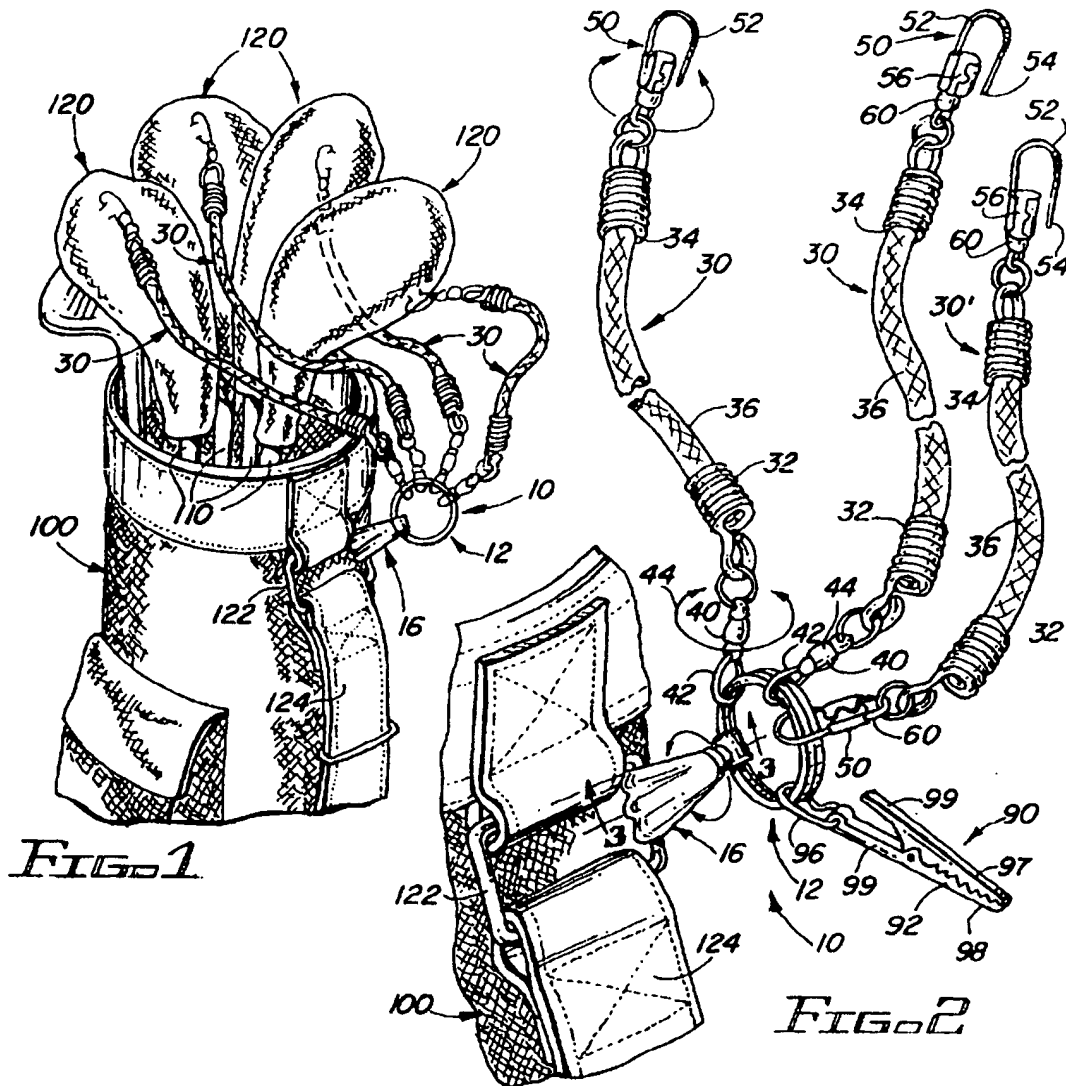
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Robert M. Downey, PA

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A device to secure golf club head covers to a golf bag includes a base ring member, a clip fitted to the base ring, and being structured for removable attachment to the golf bag, one or more elastomeric cords having a proximal end secured to the base ring with a swivel fitting and a distal end zone including a hook element fitted thereto with a swivel fitting for removable attachment of the cord to a respective one of the head covers, wherein the head covers, when removed from corresponding golf clubs, remain interconnected to the device and the golf bag so that they do not become separated therefrom and possibly misplaced or lost. One or more alligator clips or like fittings may be provided on the base ring for hanging a hat, glove, or other article therefrom.

18 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet





SECURING DEVICE FOR GOLF CLUB HEAD COVERS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to devices for interconnecting golf club head covers and, more specifically, a device for individually securing golf club head covers to a golf bag so that the head covers remain interconnected to the golf bag when they are removed from their respective golf clubs.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A typical set of golf clubs, carried in a golf bag, consists of irons, a putter, and two to four woods including a driver. The woods have been given their name because the head portion of these clubs was traditionally formed of a hard wood having a lacquered and polished exterior. When carried in a golf bag, the heads of the woods tend to bang together, causing the lacquer coating and paint on the head to chip and scratch. To protect the finished surface of the heads on woods, many golfers have used head covers made of leather or knitted fabric which, much like a sock, slip over the heads of the woods. Roman numerals are often provided on the head covers to identify the number of the wood (i.e., driver, 3 wood, 4 wood, etc.) that they cover.

Now, most woods are, in fact, made of non-wood compositions such as metal alloys and/or graphite compositions. Still, the heads tend to become scratched and chipped over time from banging into each other when the golf bag is carried. Also, the heads can become scratched if the golf bag is dropped or falls against a hard ground surface or other object. Also, the irons and putter can become scratched when carried in a golf bag and, accordingly, covers have been made for these clubs as well.

When a golfer needs to use a particular club, the typical routine is to remove the club from the bag and then, if the club has a head cover, the head cover is removed. Many times, golfers will simply throw the head cover on the ground, intending to pick it up for replacement on the club after they make their golf shot. However, as is often the case, the golfer is often focused on the location of the ball or is engaged in conversation with other golfers in his/her party after making the golf shot. Facing these and other distractions, the golfer inevitably forgets to pick up the head cover at one time or another and goes on to play the next hole or holes only to discover, at some later point in time, that his/her head cover is missing.

In the past, head covers have been interconnected to each other using a string or lace which weaves through each head cover and ties at the ends to form a closed loop. While this has been a somewhat effective means to prevent loss of head covers, most golfers find it difficult to remove the head cover from one club when it is interconnected to other head covers on other golf clubs in the bag. This is particularly a problem because the club cannot be removed from the golf bag until the head cover is removed. Furthermore, the head covers are sometimes removed from all of the clubs, such as when cleaning the clubs after a round of golf. In this instance, the head covers become separated from the golf bag, and are sometimes misplaced, lost or stolen.

Accordingly, there still exists a need in the golf industry for a device which individually interconnects each head cover to the golf bag so that the head cover can be easily removed from the respective golf club without becoming separated from the golf bag.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a device to secure golf club head covers to a golf bag. The device includes a base

ring member, preferably structure similar to that of a key ring, which permits other articles to be removably fitted thereto. A clip is fitted to the base ring and is structured for removable attachment to the golf bag. One or more elastomeric cords are provided, each having a proximal end secured to the base ring with a swivel fitting and a distal end zone having a hook element fitted thereto with a swivel fitting for removable attachment to a respective one of the head covers. When the device of the present invention is attached to a golf bag, and the hook elements on the cords are attached to respective head covers, any of the respective head covers can be removed from a corresponding golf club while remaining interconnected to the device and the golf bag so that they do not become separated therefrom and possibly misplaced, lost or stolen.

One or more alligator clips or like fittings may be provided on the base ring to releasably grasp a hat, glove, or other article which may be conveniently hung from the device on the side of a golf bag.

With the foregoing in mind, it is a primary object of the present invention to provide a device for securing golf club head covers to a golf bag so that individual ones of the head covers can be removed from a respective golf club and remain attached to the golf bag when the golf club is being used.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a device to secure golf club head covers to a golf bag wherein the device is designed for quick and easy attachment to the golf bag and each of the head covers.

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide a device to secure golf club head covers to a golf bag which includes a base element which removably attaches to the golf bag and a plurality of elastomeric cords extending from the base element for individual attachment to respective head covers, wherein the cords are able to stretch to an extended length when removing the head covers from golf clubs in the golf bag.

It is yet a further object of the present invention to provide a device to secure golf club head covers to a golf bag wherein the device is relatively inexpensive, yet durable and attractive.

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide a device to secure golf club head covers to a golf bag wherein the device further includes means to removably secure a hat, glove, and/or other like articles.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be more readily apparent in the detailed description which follows.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a fuller understanding of the nature of the present invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the device of the present invention installed on a golf bag and interconnected to head covers on golf clubs carried in the golf bag;

FIG. 2 is an isolated perspective view, shown in cutaway, illustrating the device of the present invention, in accordance with one preferred embodiment thereof, attached to a shoulder strap ring of a golf bag;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along the plane of the line 3—3 of FIG. 2, illustrating a base ring and attaching clip of the present invention; and

FIG. 4 is an isolated perspective view of the base ring and attaching clip of FIG. 3.

Like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to the several views of the drawings, and initially FIGS. 1 and 2, the present invention is directed to a device, generally indicated as 10, for use on a golf bag 100 having a plurality of golf clubs 110 therein and head covers 120 on at least some of the golf clubs 110.

The device 10 includes a base ring 12 which is preferably of a construction similar to that of a key ring. This key ring type construction consists of coiled metal band 15 having opposite ends 13, 14, (see FIG. 4) wherein either one of the ends 13, 14 is fed through an aperture or opening on articles to be fitted on the ring 12 and by rotating the base ring 12, the band 15 is received through the aperture to secure the article on the base ring 12.

The device further includes a clip 16 having a main body 17 with a first end defining a base 18, a claw 19, and an opposite hooked end 20 at the end of the claw 19, as best illustrated in FIG. 3. A flexible, yet rigid finger element 22 is fixed at one end 23 to the base 18 of the clip and terminates at a free end 24 against the hooked end 20 of the clip 16. By pressing inwardly on the finger element 22, the free end 24 is separated from the hooked portion 20 to receive and capture an attaching member within the closure area 26 between the claw 19 and finger element 22 of the clip 16. In a preferred embodiment, the clip 16 is secured to hardware on the golf bag 100, such as a metal ring 122 attaching a shoulder strap 124 to the golf bag 100.

A plurality of generally elongate cords 30 are provided for interconnection between the head covers 120 and the base ring 12, each having a proximal end zone 32, a distal end zone 34, and a central zone 36 extending between the proximal and distal end zones 32, 34. In a preferred embodiment, the cords 30 are formed of an elastomeric material, such as bungee cord, permitting the cords 30 to be stretched from a relaxed length to an extended length upon applying tension to pull the opposite end zones away from each other. It should be noted that the length of the cords should be sufficient to extend from the base ring to each of the head covers, without stretching the cords, while the head covers remain on the clubs. When it is desirable to use a particular club, the head cover on that club can be removed, with the club remaining in the golf bag. When removing the head cover, the cord is able to stretch so that the head cover can be pulled completely from the club.

A swivel fitting 40 is provided for interconnection of the proximal end zone 32 of each of the cords to the base ring 12. The swivel fittings 40 include a ring 42 which is fitted to the base ring, in the manner described above. The swivel fittings 40 can be of the type commonly found on fishing tackle, and permit the cords 40 to spin, as indicated by arrows 44.

The opposite distal end zones 34 of the cords 30 are provided with hook means 50 for removable attachment of the cords to individual respective ones of the head covers 120, as seen in FIG. 1. The hook means 50 may be of a type found on fishing leaders, and includes a generally U-shaped wire element 52 having a relatively sharp free distal tip 54 which is able to be pierced through the head covers 120. A clasp shield 56 closes the U-shaped wire 52 and protectively conceals the distal tip 54. To secure the hook means to the head covers 120, the distal tip 54 of the U-shaped wire 52 is released from the clasp shield 56 by squeezing the

wire together until the distal tip 54 is released and is urged outwardly free from the clasp shield 56, in a manner similar to safety pin. With the distal tip 54 exposed, the U-shaped wire can be pierced and fed through a respective one of the head covers 120 until the pointed distal tip 54 exits the head cover 120. The U-shaped wire element 52 is then squeezed to move the distal tip 54 within the grasp of the clasp shield 56 and, when properly aligned, is released to maintain the U-shaped wire in the closed position, securely attached to the head cover 120.

In a preferred embodiment, a swivel 60 is provided between the distal end zone 34 of the cords 30 and the hook means 50, so that, in conjunction with the swivel 40 at the proximal end zone 32, the cord 30 can spin relative to the hook means 50, head covers 120, and base ring 12 without imparting a twist to the cords.

Referring to FIG. 2, in a preferred embodiment, at least one of the cords 30 is provided with the hook means 50 at both the proximal end zone 32 and the distal end zone 34, so that the cord 30 can be easily and quickly detached from the base ring 12, at the proximal end zone 32, and attached separately to hardware on the golf bag 100, such as a zipper, independently from a remainder of the device 10. This is particularly useful when it is desirable to attach a head cover on a putter to the golf bag, so that when the putter is removed from the bag for use, the putter's head cover will not be separated from the golf bag 100. Because the putter is often situated at some distance away from a remainder of the clubs carried in the golf bag 100, it may be more convenient to attach the putter's head cover to the bag 100 at a separate place than a remainder of the device 10.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, the base ring 12 and clip 16 are shown. In a preferred embodiment, the clip 16 is fitted to the base ring 12 with a collar 70 or loop so that the clip can be moved about the ring as well as rotated in the direction of the arrows 72 in FIGS. 3 and 4. Further, it is preferable that the clip 16 be able to swivel so as to rotate in the direction of the arrows 74, as indicated in FIGS. 3 and 4. This helps to prevent the cords 30, extending from the base ring 12, from becoming entangled when the clip 16 is manipulated to attach and detach the device 10 on the golf bag 100. A swivel fitting is best shown in FIG. 3, wherein a pin 78 extends through the base 18 of the clip 16 and to the collar 70 which fits about the base ring 12. The base 18 of the clip 16 is able to rotate about the shank 80 of the pin, and is retained thereon by an enlarged head 82. An opposite enlarged head 84 of the pin 78 maintains attachment of the pin to the collar 70.

Referring to FIG. 2, the present invention further provides article attachment means 90 on the base ring 12 for releasably attaching various articles such as hats, gloves, and the like to the device 10 so that the articles remain secured on the golf bag 100. In a preferred embodiment, the article attachment means 90 includes one or more alligator clips 92 fitted to the base ring 12 with suitable hardware 96. The alligator clip 92 includes opposite, opposing jaw members 97, 98 which are biased towards one another. Upon squeezing the legs 99 of the alligator clip 92, the jaws 97, 98 are separated to permit an article, such as the bill of a hat, or a glove to be placed therebetween. Upon releasing the arms 99 of the alligator clip 92, the jaws 97, 98 grasp the article to retain the article in attached relation on the device 10 so that the article hangs on an exterior of the golf bag 100.

While the instant invention has been shown and described in what is considered to be preferred and practical embodiments thereof, it is recognized that departures may be made

5

within the spirit and scope of the invention which, therefore, should not be limited except as set forth in the following claims and within the doctrine of equivalents.

Now that the invention has been described,
What is claimed is:

1. A device for use on a golf bag having a plurality of golf clubs therein and head covers on at least some of the golf clubs, said device comprising:

a base ring,

clip means fitted to said base ring for removably attaching the device to the golf bag,

a plurality of generally elongate cords each having a proximal end zone, a distal end zone, and a central zone extending between the proximal and distal end zones,

securing means on said proximal end zones of said cords for securing said cords to said base ring in movable relation thereon so that said securing means and said proximal end zones are able to travel about said base ring,

hook means on said distal end zones of said cords for removable attachment to individual respective ones of the head covers, and

wherein the head covers, when removed from the golf clubs, remain interconnected to said device and the golf bag so that they do not become separated therefrom.

2. A device as recited in claim 1 wherein said cords are formed of an elastomeric material allowing said cords to be stretched from a relaxed length to an extended length under tension.

3. A device as recited in claim 1 wherein said securing means on said proximal end zones of said cords includes swivel means for allowing said cords to spin relative to said securing means and said base ring without imparting a twist to said cords.

4. A device as recited in claim 3 wherein said hook means on said distal end zones of said cords includes shield means to protectively conceal a free distal end of said hook means.

5. A device as recited in claim 4 further including at least one cord with said hook means on both a distal end zone and a proximal end zone thereof.

6. A device as recited in claim 1 further including article attachment means on said base ring for releasably attaching a hat, glove, or like article thereto.

7. A device as recited in claim 6 wherein said article attachment means includes an alligator clip.

8. A device as recited in claim 1 wherein said clip means includes a swivel fitting for allowing said clip means to spin relative to said base ring.

9. A device as recited in claim 8 wherein said clip means is movably fitted to said base ring, allowing said clip means to rotate about said base ring.

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10. A device as recited in claim 1 wherein said hook means is removably attachable to head covers on golf clubs including woods, irons, and putters.

11. A device for use on a golf bag having a plurality of golf clubs therein and head covers on at least some of the golf clubs, said device comprising:

a base ring,

clip means fitted to said base ring for removably attaching the device to the golf bag,

a plurality of generally elongate cords formed of an elastomeric material and each having a proximal end zone, a distal end zone, and a central zone extending between said proximal and distal end zones, said cords being structured to stretch from a relaxed length to an extended length under tension,

means on said proximal end zones of said cords for securing said cords to said base ring in movable relation thereon,

hook means on said distal end zone of said cords for removable attachment to individual respective ones of the head covers,

swivel means at said proximal end zone and said distal end zone of each of said cords for allowing said cords to spin relative to the head covers and the base ring and golf bag without imparting a twist to said cords, and

wherein the head covers, when removed from the golf clubs, remain interconnected to said device and the golf bag so that they do not become separated therefrom.

12. A device as recited in claim 11 wherein said hook means on said distal end zones of said cords includes shield means to protectively conceal a free distal end of said hook means.

13. A device as recited in claim 11 further including at least one cord with said hook means on both a distal end zone and a proximal end zone thereof.

14. A device as recited in claim 11 further including article attachment means on said base ring for releasably attaching a hat, glove or other like article thereto.

15. A device as recited in claim 14 wherein said article attachment means includes an alligator clip.

16. A device as recited in claim 11 wherein said clip means includes a swivel fitting for allowing said clip means to spin relative to said base ring.

17. A device as recited in claim 16 wherein said clip means is movably fitted to said base ring, allowing said clip means to rotate about said base ring.

18. A device as recited in claim 11 wherein said hook means is removably attachable to head covers on golf clubs including woods, irons, and putters.

* * * * *

April 5, 1960

H. K. DE WITT

2,931,084

SHEETING HOLDER

Filed Feb. 14, 1955

Fig. 1

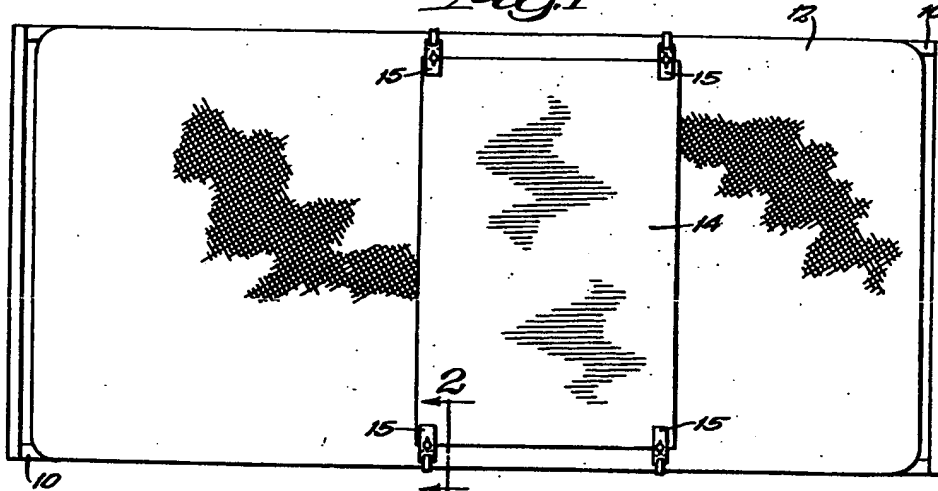


Fig. 2

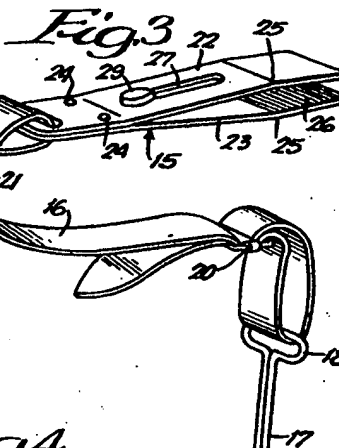
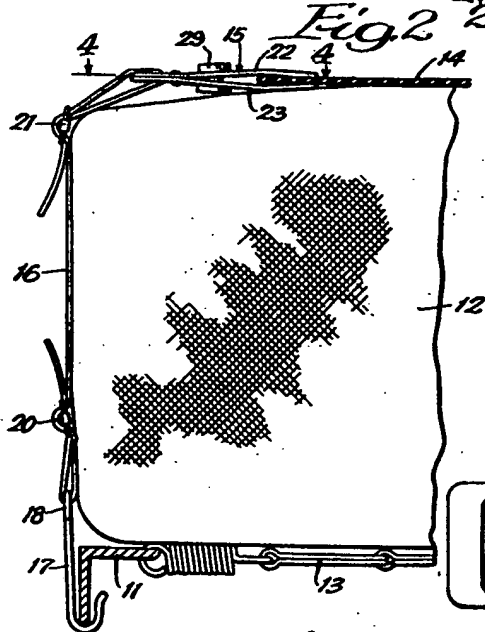


Fig. 4

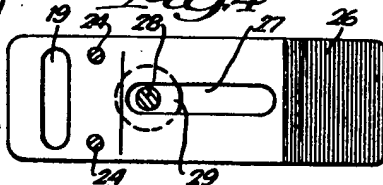


Fig. 5

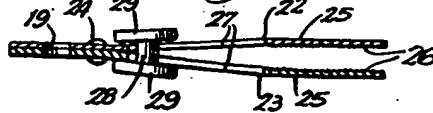
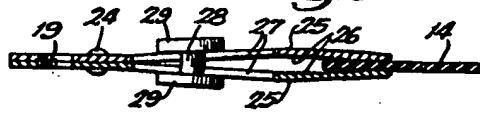


Fig. 6



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2,931,084

SHEETING HOLDER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24—72.5)

This invention relates to a sheeting holder, and is particularly useful as a means for holding elastic sheeting or the like on a hospital bed, etc.

In the use of rubber sheeting, and the like, on patients' beds in hospitals, it has been the practice to stitch to the sheets pieces of muslin on each side so that the muslin could be tucked under the mattress to secure the rubber sheeting in position. The muslin, however, becomes dirty and it is necessary to send the entire sheet to the laundry for cleaning. Further, the muslin becomes torn and is unsatisfactory for use long before the sheeting is worn out. Further, it is easy for the muslin to work loose and thus to fail to provide the support necessary for maintaining the rubber sheeting in a taut condition. If means could be provided for maintaining the rubber sheeting constantly in a taut condition while at the same time permitting the sheeting to be cleaned when desired with a cold detergent, etc., the need for sending the piece to the laundry would be eliminated and at the same time the sheeting could be preserved in better condition.

An object of the present invention is to provide means for eliminating the muslin heretofore required and to provide effective means for constantly holding the sheeting in taut and even condition. A further object is to provide simple and inexpensive means which may be employed for gripping rubber sheeting and securing it under tension while at the same time permitting ready release of the sheeting for cleaning, etc. Other specific objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds.

The invention is shown, in an illustrative embodiment, by the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a bed provided with rubber sheeting and with securing means embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a side elevational view, shown partly in section, and on an enlarged scale; Fig. 3, a perspective view of the sheeting holder or securing means; Fig. 4, a top plan view of the clamp employed, the view being taken as indicated at line 4—4 of Fig. 2; Fig. 5, a longitudinal sectional view of the clamp shown in Fig. 4, the clamp being in released position; and Fig. 6, a view similar to Fig. 5 but showing the clamp in engaging position.

In the illustration given, 10 designates a bed frame equipped with a spring rail 11. Since the bed and spring rail are of well-known construction, a detailed description herein is believed unnecessary. A mattress 12 is supported over the spring rail 11 and the spring 13 carried thereby. Over the mattress 12 extends sheeting 14, which may be formed of rubber, plastic, or any other suitable material. The sheeting may extend over the entire bed or only over a portion thereof. In the illustration given, I provide clamps 15 which engage the corners of the sheet 14 and the clamps are secured by a rubber or elastic belt 16 to a hook 17 engageable with the spring rail 11, as illustrated in Fig. 2. It will be understood that the hook or fastening member 17 may be engaged with any suitable ledge carried by the bed or spring frame

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The belt or strap 16 extends through a loop 18 carried by the hook 17, and at its other end extends through a slot 19 with which the rear portion of the clamp 15 is provided. Buckles 20 and 21 are provided to permit lengthwise adjustment of the resilient strap 16.

The clamp 15 is formed of two spring metal plates 22 and 23, the plates being secured together at their rear by rivets 24. The plates 22 and 23 have diverging forwardly-extending spring portions so as to provide normally open forward jaws 25. The jaw portions 25 are preferably bent inwardly so as to provide normally parallel front surfaces equipped on their inner sides with superficial roughening or knurling 26. I prefer to have the knurling in the form of transversely-extending ribs or ridges for effectively gripping the sheeting edges.

Each of the plates 22 and 23 is provided with an aligned longitudinal slot 27 adapted to receive a pin 28 provided at its ends with circular flanges or buttons 29. As the buttons 29 are moved rearwardly to the position shown in Fig. 5, the jaws of the clamp are opened and when the buttons are moved forwardly, as illustrated in Fig. 6, the jaws of the clamp are urged together to grip the sheeting 14 therebetween.

Operation

In the operation of the structure, the sheeting 14 is placed in position upon the top of the bed and the side portions of the sheeting are engaged by the clamps 15. The hooks 17 may then be engaged with the spring ledge or other suitable ledge on the bed frame for anchoring the sheeting 14 firmly in position. The adjustable straps permit the location of the sheeting 14 centrally upon the bed or toward one or the other side, as desired. Even though the sheeting 14 is temporarily moved or twisted out of position, the resilient straps 16 instantly draw the sheeting back into taut flat condition when the sheeting is released. The flat clamp devices lying adjacent the edge of the bed occupy a minimum of space and present substantially no obstruction, while at the same time they draw the sheeting to its desired flat and taut condition. If desired, the sheeting 14 may be extended for the full width of the mattress and the clamps may be utilized solely in a vertical position, gripping the edge portions of the sheeting 14 which extend beyond the top of the bed.

The strap or webbing 16 may be formed of rubber, artificial rubber, plastic such as nylon, or any other suitable plastic or material.

While, in the foregoing specification, I have set forth a specific structure in considerable detail for the purpose of illustrating the invention, it will be understood that such details of structure may be varied widely by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A sheeting holder adapted to secure sheeting and to maintain the same taut upon a bed having a ledge, comprising a flat clamp having a pair of jaws, said jaws comprising a pair of elongated spring sheet metal plates each of substantially uniform width and having rear end portions connected to each other, intermediate portions extending forwardly and outwardly, and flat front end portions normally spaced from each other, said flat front portions each having a width at least as great as the length thereof and being provided with knurled opposing surfaces for gripping sheeting therebetween, means extending between the intermediate portions of said plates for drawing the intermediate and flat front end portions of the paired plates towards and away from each other, an elastic strap secured at one end to said clamp, and a hook carried by the other end of said strap for connecting said holder to the ledge of a bed.

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2. In a sheeting holder having an elastic strap equipped at one end thereof with a hook for attachment to the ledge of a bedframe, a clamp secured to said elastic strap at the opposite end thereof, said clamp comprising a pair of flat elongated sheet metal plates of substantially uniform width having rear end portions secured to each other and having intermediate portions extending forwardly and in normally diverging relation, said clamp also having flat forward end portions extending normally along spaced parallel planes, said end portions each having a width at least as great as their length and having ribbed opposing surfaces for gripping sheeting therebetween, and means extending between the intermediate portions of said plates for drawing the normally spaced and

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parallel front end portions of the plates together for clamping sheeting therebetween.

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